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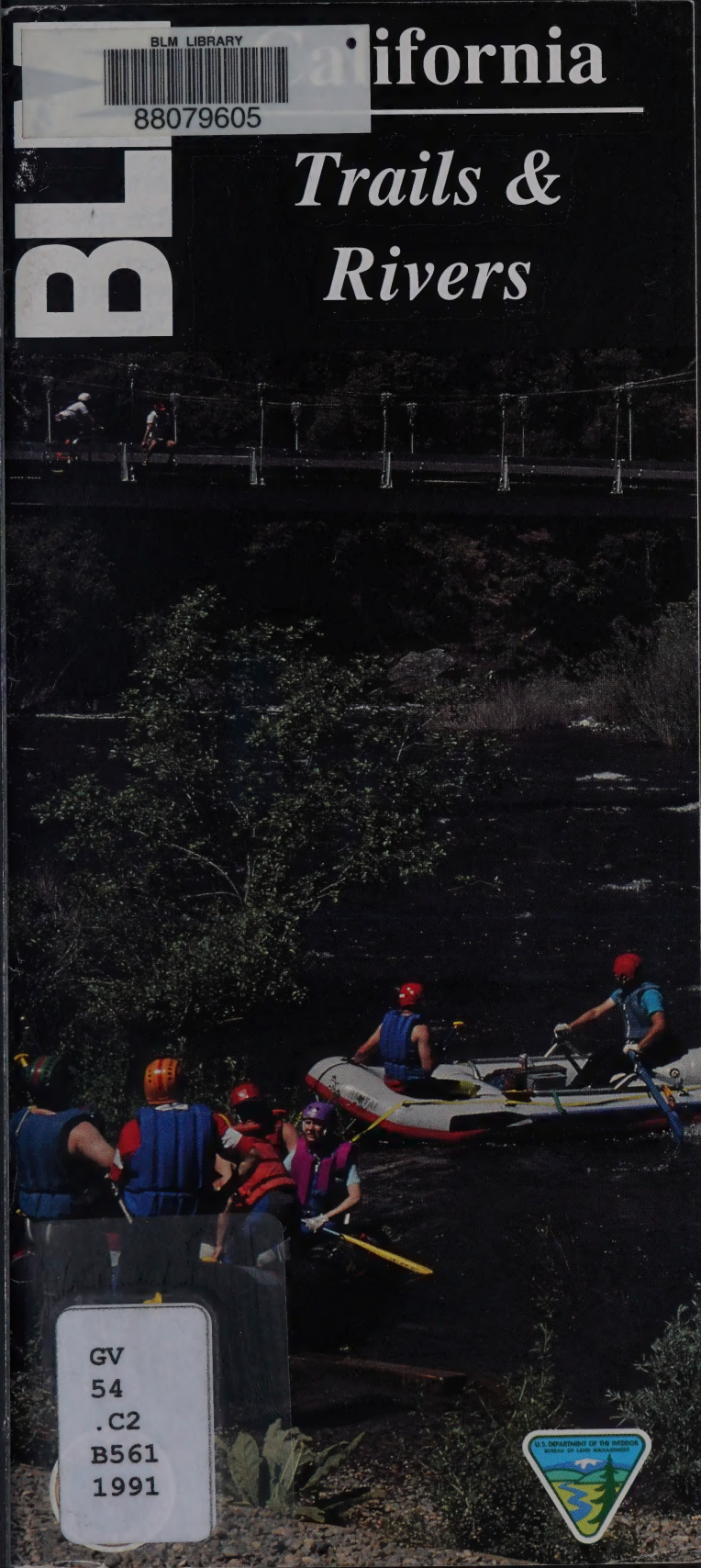
Trails & Rivers



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How to use this publication...

This directory is designed to be your first stop on the way to an exciting adventure on your public lands. Trails and Rivers are grouped by region into 4 districts — Bakersfield, the California Desert, Susanville, and Ukiah. Under the entry for each trail/river is listed the resource area that has direct management responsibility for it. The reference number to the right of each entry will help you locate the river/trail on the appropriate district map. You'll see that each entry also provides basic information on what facilities and activities you can expect to find at the site or nearby, the season of use, and location direction. For a real *insider's* look at the trails and rivers, contact the appropriate resource area to help you plan your BLM-California visit.

Cover Photo by Daniel Lee Brown

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BLM-California's got the edge. . .
A thousand mile edge of the continent,
An edge on recreation. . .

17.2 million acres in California, another 1.5 million acres in Nevada, all managed for your multiple use by the Bureau of Land Management.

13 recreation rivers, 48 campgrounds, 53 trails, dozens of recreation areas supplying first-come, first-served fun.

Rivers and Trails are our pathways to adventure. Whether setting out to forge new worlds or merely escaping the admonishments of Aunt Polly, blazing trails and exploring rivers are activities most Americans find akin to magic.

Hiking California presents challenges for every breed of hiker, from short, self-guided nature trails to learn about desert wildlife or coastal fauna, to tackling all or portions of the grueling Pacific Crest Trail. In between these extremes there are dozens of one-day adventures from the badlands to the verdant sloughs near picturesque Arcata. Along the way take plenty of pictures but leave only footprints as you visit some of California's most remote but rewarding scenery.

Wet, wild, and wonderful adventures await you on the Golden State's rivers. You'll find dozens of river guide services for every level of adventure. Anglers too will find their own kind of challenge landing trout, steelhead and salmon in our famous Northern California rivers.

Whether your goal is physical challenge or self discovery, you'll find avenues aplenty on these BLM *Pathways to Adventure.*

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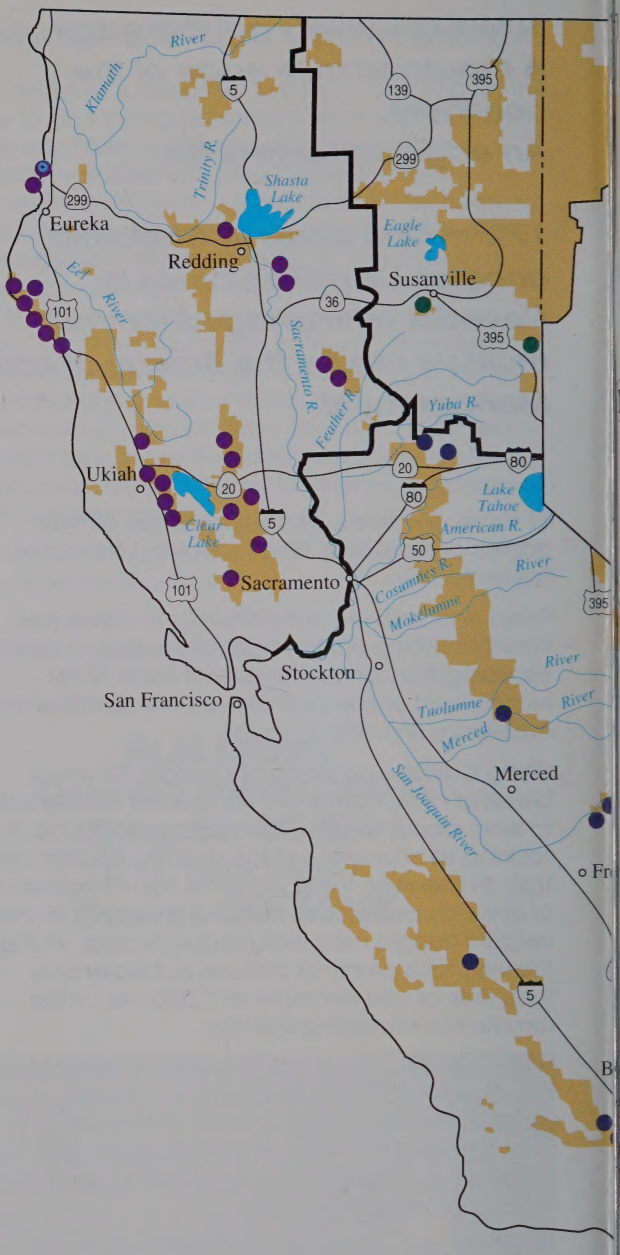
Klamath River
Trinity R.
Shasta Lake
Eagle Lake
Eureka
Redding
Susanville
Eel River
Sacramento R.
Feather R.
Yuba R.
Ukiah
Clear Lake
Lake Tahoe
American R.
Sacramento
Cosumnes R.
Mokelumne River
Stockton
San Francisco
Tuolumne River
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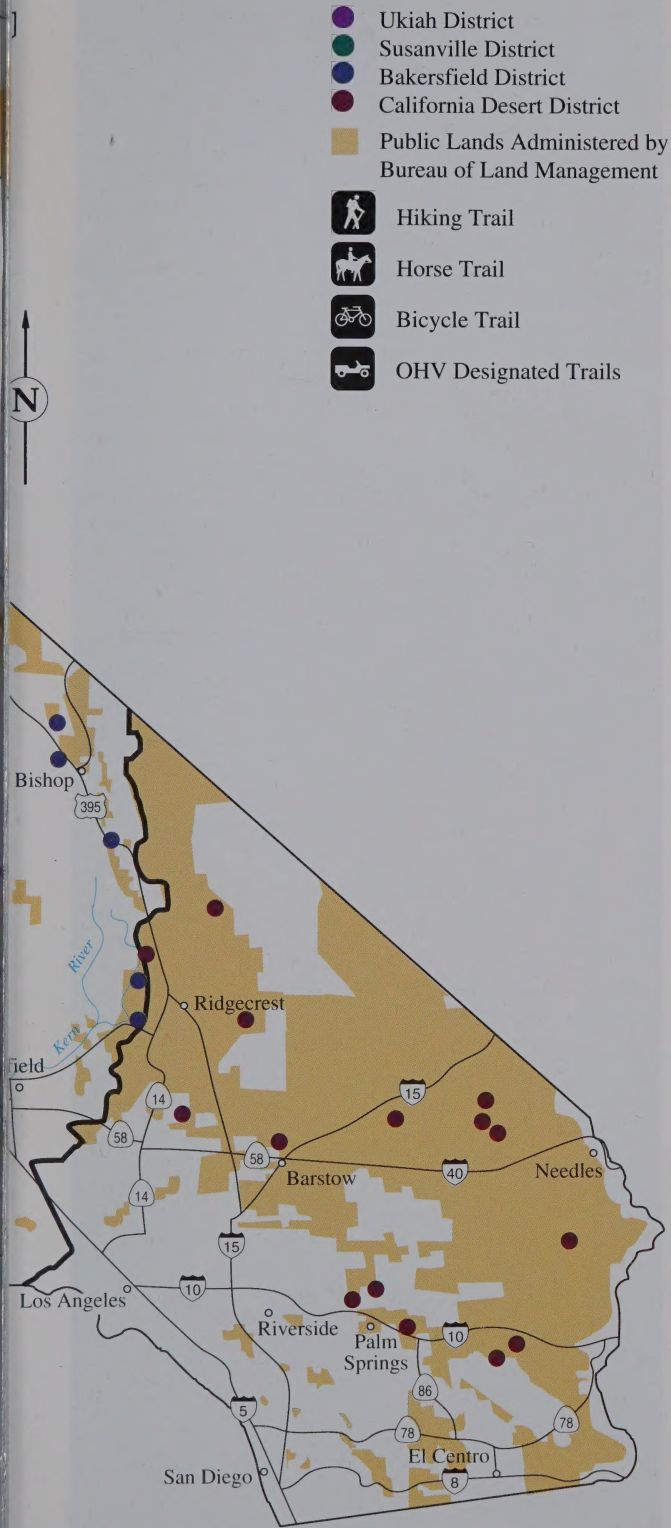
Ukiah District
Susanville District
Bakersfield District
California Desert District
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Ukiah District

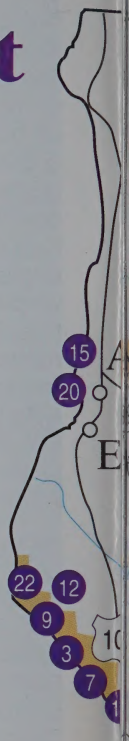
Bring your sense of adventure to the Ukiah District, but leave your watch behind. Recreation is something that happens here on the large scale. Sample the King Range, for example. Some 60,000 acres of desolate grandeur combining spectacular beaches and rugged mountains for recreation a la carte. Ride your horse along a wet and glistening beach at sunset or strap on a backpack and tackle one or all segments of the challenging King Crest Trail. Sea lions haul out on rocky ledges, armies of shorebirds mine the sand, migrating whales show off their young on their annual trek from Baja to the Bering Sea, the monarch of the north, the Roosevelt elk grazes on clovers in meadows with postcard perfect ocean views. Five developed campgrounds, a half-dozen marked trails, tidepools, surf casting, a dramatic black sands beach, acres of wildflowers, and even a lighthouse. Who could ask for more?

Pick your pace. Stoke up energy for the hiking trails of North Cow Mountain. Or for OHV fans, there's the rough and ready hills of Gene Chappie Shasta or South Cow Mountain, perhaps the lazy bowls and berms of sand along the Pacific at Samoa Dunes. Or marvel at your regained sense of wonder on the self-guided Little Darby Nature Trail or challenging pastoral setting of the Cache Creek Recreation Lands.

Name your wildflower—Indian warriors, Douglas iris, Calypso orchids. Or try to ID any of the 200-plus mushrooms waiting for you at Mad River Slough.

Feisty fish, fierce rapids, and felicitious floats await you along the Upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers, where salmon and steelhead vie for title of King of the River, and every angler's a winner.

Ukiah District



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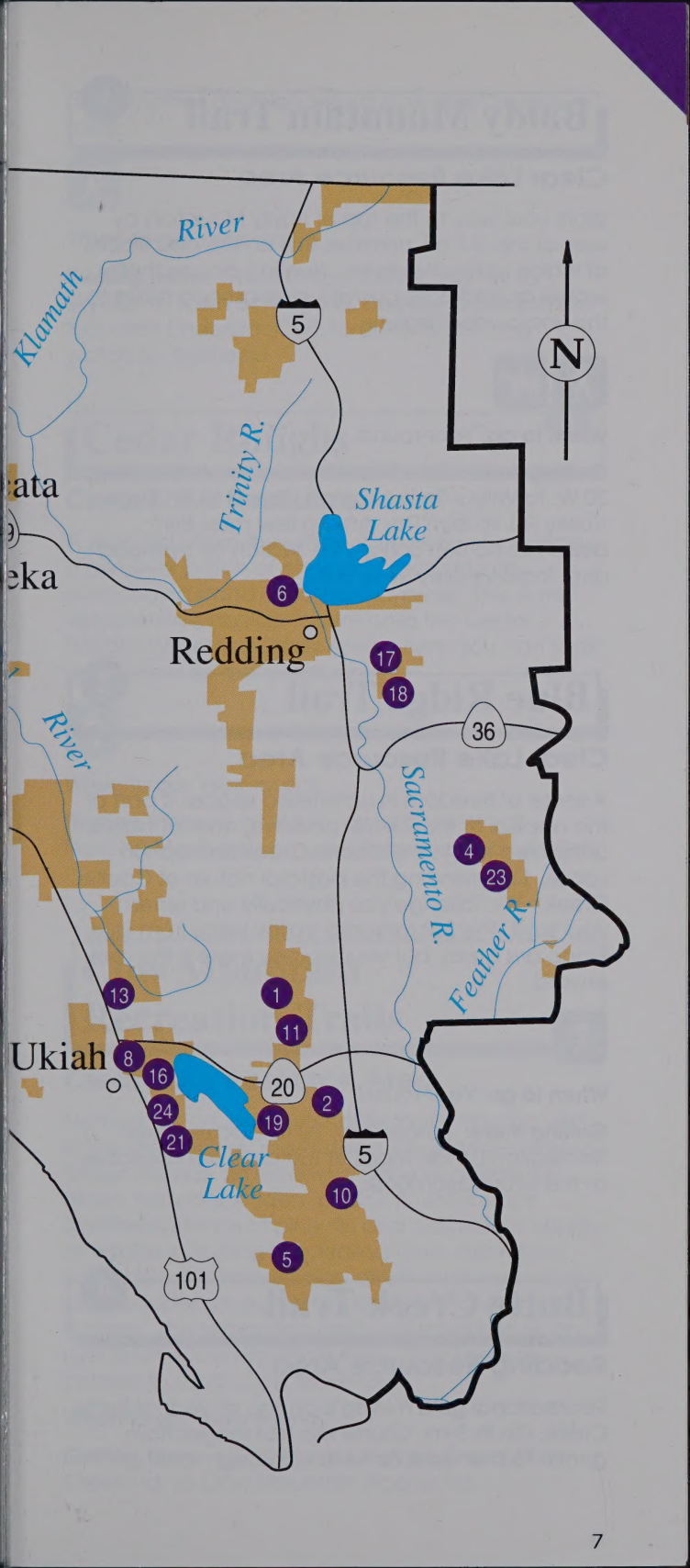
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Baldy Mountain Trail 1

Clear Lake Resource Area

Work your way to the top of Baldy Mountain by way of this 4.5 mi. primitive trail on the east slopes of Indian Valley Reservoir. Hunting access, hefty workouts, and valley vistas lure seasoned hikers to this uncrowded region.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Exit I-5 at Williams, and follow Hwy. 20 W. to Wilbur Springs cutoff. Travel N. on Bear Valley Rd. to Brim Rd. After a few miles Brim becomes Bartlett Springs Rd. Watch for trailhead near Indian Valley Reservoirs.

Blue Ridge Trail 2

Clear Lake Resource Area

A sense of freedom in unfettered spaces is part of the appeal of this 2.5 mi. primitive, and, at points, unmarked trail in the Cache Creek Recreation Lands. Experiencing the pastoral nature of Cache Creek will challenge you physically and refresh your spirit. The Sacramento Valley vistas from Blue Ridge are great, but your journey there is the real reward.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Follow Hwy. 20 to Cache Creek Recreation Lands. Maps of the area are available at the information kiosk.

Butte Creek Trail 4

Redding Resource Area

Recreational gold mining is on tap all year at Butte Creek. On its 5-mi. course the trail ranges from gentle to strenuous as it works through rock

outcroppings and Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forest.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Chico, follow Hwy. 99 to Skyway to town of Megalia, above Paradise, then turn onto Understock Rd. to Butte Creek and watch for trailhead.

Cedar Roughs 5

Clear Lake Resource Area

A short hop from the urban core of San Francisco is a primeval patch of chaparral featuring an outstanding stand of Sargent cypress. This .5 mi. very primitive corridor opens onto the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area where you can soak up a whole lot more solitude.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: N. of Napa, about 2 mi. W. of Rancho Monticello on Lake Berryessa-Knoxville Rd.

Cow Mountain Recreation Trails

Clear Lake Resource Area

Named for the longhorn cattle that once ran wild in the area, today these steep, chaparral-covered slopes provide an extensive network of trails for hikers, horseback riders, and OHV enthusiasts. Scattered stands of pine, fir, and oak hide a variety of wildlife including blacktailed deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and wild pigs, all of which make the area equally attractive to wildlife watchers and hunters. The recreation area is divided into North and South Cow Mountain sites. OHV use is restricted to South Cow Mountain.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: US 101 to Ukiah, then E. on Mill Creek Rd. to Cow Mountain Access Rd.

North Cow Mountain Trails

Glen Eden Trail 8

Stoke up your energy before you take on this 8.5-mi. challenge through chaparral and oak-studded countryside with lots of elevation gain. Your payoff? Great views of Clear Lake and the Mayacmas range.

Valley View Trail 24

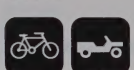
A tad shorter, but not one iota less challenging, this 7-mi. trek via mostly open country crests with vistas of the Ukiah Valley.

Mayacmas 16

Mayacmas means howl of the mountain lion, and although you're not apt to see one of these fierce felines along this 3-mi. heavily-wooded trail, you'll surely have lots of ups and downs. Lush streambank greenery accompanies you on part of your journey.

South Cow Mountain Trails 21

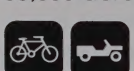
120 miles of trails primarily for mountain biking and OHV.



Gene Chappie/Shasta 6

Redding Resource Area

Over 200 miles of roads and trails run through 50,000 acres.



When to go: Year-round

Getting there: From I-5, exit Shasta Dam. Road that crosses dam leads to area.

King Range National Conservation Area Trails

Arcata Resource Area

You don't just stumble across the King Range National Conservation Area—You have to hunt for it. But this dramatic meeting of land and sea will reward you well for your effort. The King Range rises from sea level to 4,087 ft. in less than three miles. Rugged topography and record rainfall create over 60,000 ac. of desolate grandeur. Its mountains, streams, forests, beaches are ideal for fishing, hunting, sightseeing. Spectacular sections of this wild coast are open to hikers and equestrians. Here are six of the most popular treks.

Buck Creek Trail 3

Challenge your spirit and flex your muscles on this 3-mi. long, former logging trail. From the terminus of Saddle Mountain Trail, about 3,300 ft., this rugged staircase winds down steep, lush green canyons, by wildflowers, of course, to a pocket beach where you can stake out all the privacy you could ever crave.

Chemise Mountain Trail 7

Mix and match your options south of Shelter Cove on this loop tied to the Lost Coast Trail. From easy rambles between campgrounds to exhilarating treks via meadow and woods for Pacific vistas south to Fort Bragg's sawmill smokestacks, you can experience the full drama of the King Range in about 3 miles.

Lightning Trail 12

Nature lovers will find plenty to keep them coming back to the 2.5-mi-Lightning Trail. This shortest and shadiest route to King's Peak meanders back and forth in old Douglas fir forest and brushy meadowland. Sparkling mountain streams with boulders covered in lime-colored lichen, bright crimson

Indian warriors all create photo interest along the way, but save lots of film for the view at the top.

Lost Coast Trail 14

This 35-mi. wilderness trek from the Mattole River campground to Sinkyone Wilderness traverses hardscrabble cliffs, black sand beaches, meadows of grazing cattle and sheep and even Roosevelt Elk. Fog may buffer the screams of sea gulls but always there is the call of the sea. Whiskered critters in offshore rookeries include Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, and rambunctious sea otters. The

Punta Gorda Lighthouse, phantasmagoric driftwood, crystal-clear tidepools, and flashy wildflowers make this trail a photographer's dream. The Pacific can be capricious: consult tidetables before you set out.

King Crest Trail 9

This extensive trail system offers challenges for every breed of hiker. Some 10.5 mi. of trails and 3 trailheads create a series of loops providing foot and horse access along the main coastal ridge north of Shelter Cove. From King's Peak, elev. 4,087 ft., you'll face panoramic views of the Pacific, Mattole River Valley, Yolly Bolly and Trinity Mountains. Along the way, vegetation fades from hunter green to chartreuse to silver-green and every green in between. And then there are the wildflowers: bush lupine, wild rose, sticky monkeyflowers, and California poppies that spill across the fields like wildfire.

Spanish Ridge Trail 22

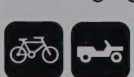
Blacktailed deer browse on grasses and wildflowers along this 3-mi. easy hike through open meadows. A popular link between the King Crest and Lost Coast trails, this trail culminates in Spanish Flat, which offers open areas for camping, icy streams banked by beds of watercress and mint, and awesome offshore boulders.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: US 101 then either Ferndale or Redway exits to the coast.

Knoxville 10

Popular area for OHV enthusiasts. Primitive trails, challenging for the most hardy rider.



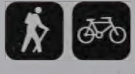
When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: At lower Lake Road where highway 29 and 53 merge take Morgan Valley Road. Go south to McLaughlin Mine. Follow road past tunnel to Knoxville signs.

Kowalski Trail 11

Clear Lake Resource Area

Uncrowded spaces and oak-peppered landscape of Indian Valley set the scene for a leisurely 2.5 mi. stroll. Along the way you'll enjoy some postcard vistas of the Indian Valley reservoir. Be sure to watch for bobcat. Kowalski Springs is a popular primitive camping area, especially during deer season.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From I-5, exit at Williams and go W. on Hwy. 20 to Wilbur Springs cutoff. Turn N. on Bear Valley Rd. to Brim Rd.. After a few miles Brim becomes Bartlett Springs Rd., and leads to the reservoir.

Little Darby Trail 13

Clear Lake Resource Area

This pristine wayside presents a pocket-sized preserve of virgin forest. Popular with school groups and naturalists of all ages, the 1.5-mi. trail system comprises two self-guiding loops, one through old-growth Douglas fir, the longer loop into chaparral meadows. Call or drop by the Clear Lake Resource Area for an interpretive trail guide.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: US 101 to Willetts, then E. on Commercial St. to Hearst-Willetts Rd. Follow Berry Canyon Rd. to Little Darby parking area.

Mad River Slough & Dunes

15

Arcata Resource Area

The Mad River Dunes area is a unique patchwork of ecosystems seamed with trails for hikers. If solitude's your spin, you'll find clumps of defiant clumps of sea grass littered with silvered driftwood and wind-blown wildflowers for inspiration. And, of course, there are the forests. Your selection includes beach-pine and Sitka, riparian corridors, pockets of wet verdant woods rarely seen outside the Olympia Peninsula. Delicate pink calypso orchids peek out through forest duff. Shorebirds mine the intertidal mudflats for supper while redtailed hawks call the snags bordering the salt marsh home. Take only photos of the 200-plus mushrooms found here in the fall—this unique setting is part of a Nature Conservancy preserve.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From US 101 in Arcata, follow Hwy. 255 to signs for recreation area.

Paynes Creek Trail

17

Redding Resource Area

Tiny, jewel-like vernal pools enclosed in rings of fairy wildflowers make Paynes Creek a naturalist's eden. Spring residents include egrets and sandhill cranes. The rest of the year wood ducks dodge between willows and blacktailed deer snack on native grasses in this watery meadow webbed by a 2.5-mi. long trail for walkers and equestrians.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From I-5 N. of Red Bluff, exit at Jellys Ferry Rd, then onto Bend Ferry Rd. and look for trail signs.

Perry-Inks Trail 18

Redding Resource Area

Take a 4.5-mi. walk on the wildside. Stately cottonwoods create a shady canopy popular with deer and an occasional bobcat. Plush-furred river otters play tag in Inks Creek as one of nature's original dambuilders toothsomely surveys his latest creation of mud and cattails.

When to go: Year-round.

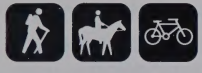
Getting there: Near the Sacramento River, about 6 mi. N. of Red Bluff. Take I-5 to Jellys Ferry Rd., and look for signs for trail.

Red Bud Trail 19

Clear Lake Resource Area

Face it—everything's better outdoors! And few places are better to discover this than the Red Bud

Trail. In the heart of the Cache Creek Recreation Lands, this 7-mi. hiking trail climbs over an oak-studded ridge and fords picturesque Cache Creek before moving into Wilson Valley. You've wandered into one of those rare places that time and progress have overlooked, a pastoral setting where bald eagles ride updrafts over the meadow and magnificent Tule elk browse in ankle-high clover. Escape. Enjoy. Explore. You might even see a bear.



When to go: Year-round, but temporarily closed in spring for elk calving.

Getting there: Trailhead is about 8 mi. E. of Clearlake Oaks off Hwy. 20 in the Cache Creek Recreation Lands.

Samoa Dunes Trail 20

Arcata Resource Area

The Samoa Dunes area offers a restful beauty all its own. The coastal dunescape of the 300-ac. park between the Pacific Ocean and Humboldt Bay is a place where you can prospect for driftwood and sand dollars, fly a kite, cast for surf perch, or zig your ATV over and around bowls and berms of sand anchored by seagrasses, ice plant, and wildflowers. The cry of seagulls and moan of foghorns on logging ships from the seaport city of Eureka accompany you on a short self-guided nature loop where you'll learn about the endangered Menzies' wallflower. Those stacks of shells you may encounter are middens—castoffs from the Wiyot people who eons ago gathered shellfish along the Samoa spit.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From US 101 in Eureka, follow the Samoa Bridge to Hwy. 255, then south to end of Samoa spit.

Upper Ridge Interpretive Trails

23

Redding Resource Area

Many of nature's wonders come in small packages. Worth a closer look are two small but special self-guiding nature trails in the Upper Ridge Nature Preserve. One trail scribes a leisurely .8-mi. circle through a parade of native wildflowers that includes yellow woodland violets, crimson Indian warriors, neon bright tiger lilies, and sparkling watercress. The slightly longer .9-mi. loop covers more varied terrain from chaparral to Ponderosa pine and madrone. Interpretive stops along the way add to your viewing pleasure.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Hwy. 99, follow Skyway Rd. W. through Paradise. At Paradise Pines subdivision turn onto Ponderosa Rd. to Compton Dr. Turn left on Compton Drive and watch for trailhead sign.

Middle Fork Eel River

Arcata Resource Area

This main fork of the Eel is hands-down one of the best runs in the state. A wild, rugged country of dense forests, meadows, rolling hills, and steep-walled gorges also furnishes paddlers a range of heart-thumping excitement. The 12-mi. (8 hr.) float from Eel River Station to Dos Rios serves up a heady blend of Class II-IV+ rapids and views of the Yolly Bolly Wilderness.

When to go: Winter-spring.

Getting there: From US 101, exit at Hwy. 162 to Eel River Ranger Station.

Put-in: Eel River Ranger Station.

Take-out: Dos Rios.

River Class: II-IV+

Sacramento River

Redding Resource Area

California's longest river makes a splash with visitors thanks to easy access for swimmers and boaters. Kayaks, canoes, rafts, and power boats all ply these deceptively tranquil waters that meander down the Sacramento Valley. The recreation inventory for the 7-mi. BLM-managed stretch from the City of Redding south to Paynes Creek includes hiking, picnicking, target shooting, camping, and wildlife watching. There's great shoreline fishing for salmon, steelhead, and trout, where you soon see why the osprey's called the *fish eagle*. Contributing to the wildlife are river otters, ringtail cat, blacktail deer, red-tailed hawks, and bobcats.

When to go: Year–round.

Getting there: South of Redding near I-5.

Put-in/Take-out: Redding, South Bonnyview, Anderson River Park, Balls Ferry,Old Mouth at Battle Creek, Jelly's Ferry (driftboats only-primitive), Bend Bridge, Red Bluff River, Red Bluff Diversion below dam, Woodson Bridge State Park, Colusa-Sacramento.

River Class: I

South Fork Eel River

Arcata Resource Area

Ready, set, float! Slam into stacks of frothy water bordered by towering forests of Douglas fir. Several Class IV rapids provide some hair-raising whitewater adventurers along the South Fork of this free-flowing river. Rapids aside, the Eel offers a wonderful meander through old-growth forests that erases all sense of time. More than 100 species of wildlife make their home among a virgin Douglas fir forest and hundreds of flowering plants in the nearby Northern California North Coast Preserve.

When to go: Winter-spring.

Getting there: Hwy. 101 N. of Garberville.

Put-in/Take-out: Along Hwy. 101

River Class: IV

Trinity River

Redding Resource Area

The Trinity River finds few rivals for natural beauty. Off to a quiet start, it races through steep canyons and rustic meadows slowly gathering steam for a high-charged rendezvous with the Klamath. A two-day canoe or raft trip down the 40-mi. reach from Lewiston to Helena offers vestiges of the region's gold rush history and knockout views of the snow-capped Trinity Alps. Steelhead and salmon runs are legendary, and rainbow and brown trout lurk in pools that don't stay secret long. Three nearby BLM campgrounds at Steelbridge, Douglas City, and Junction City add to your vacation options.

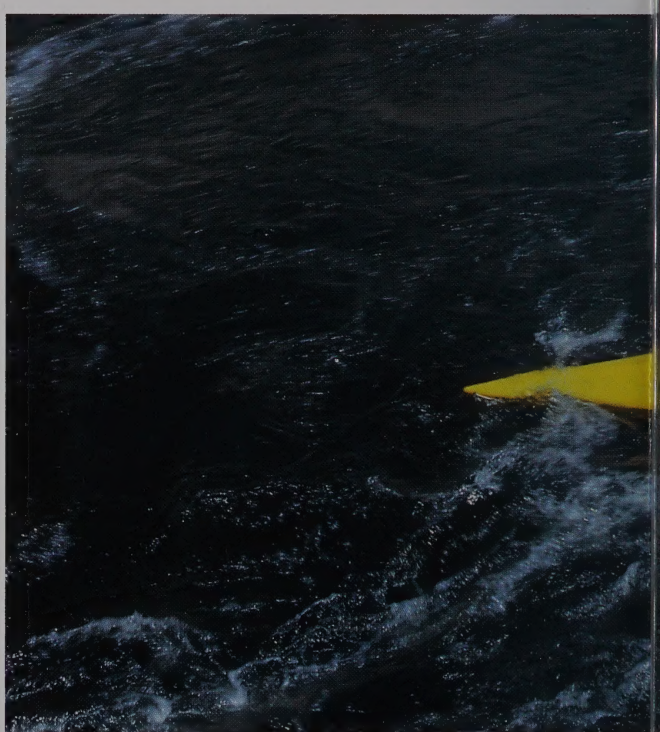
When to go: Late spring-summer for float trips, fall for fishing.

Getting there: Hwy. 299 W. of Redding or E. of Arcata.

Put-in: Bucktail Hole, Rush Creek, Steelbridge, Douglas City, North Fork.

Take-out: Same as put-in, except for Bucktail Hole.

River Class: II-III



Upper Klamath River

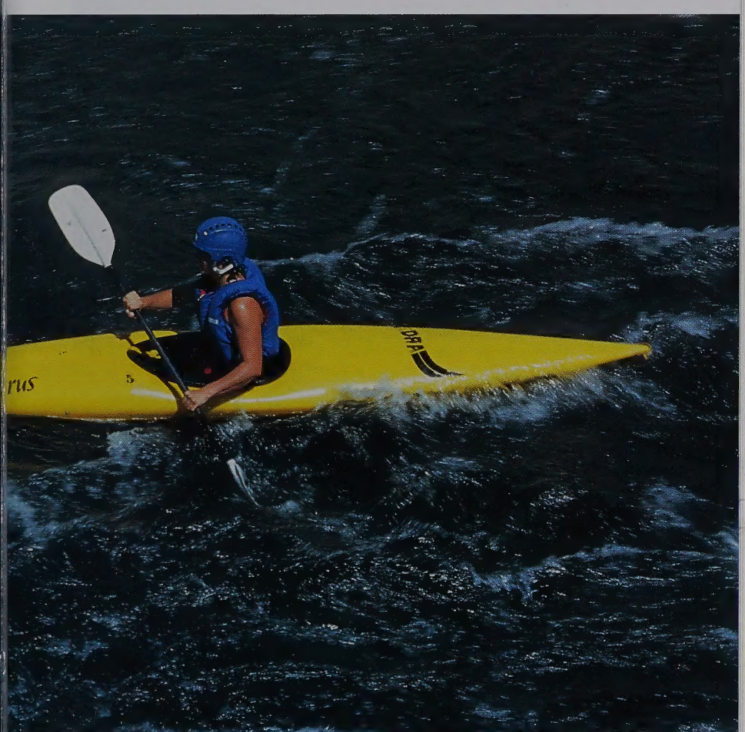
Redding Resource Area

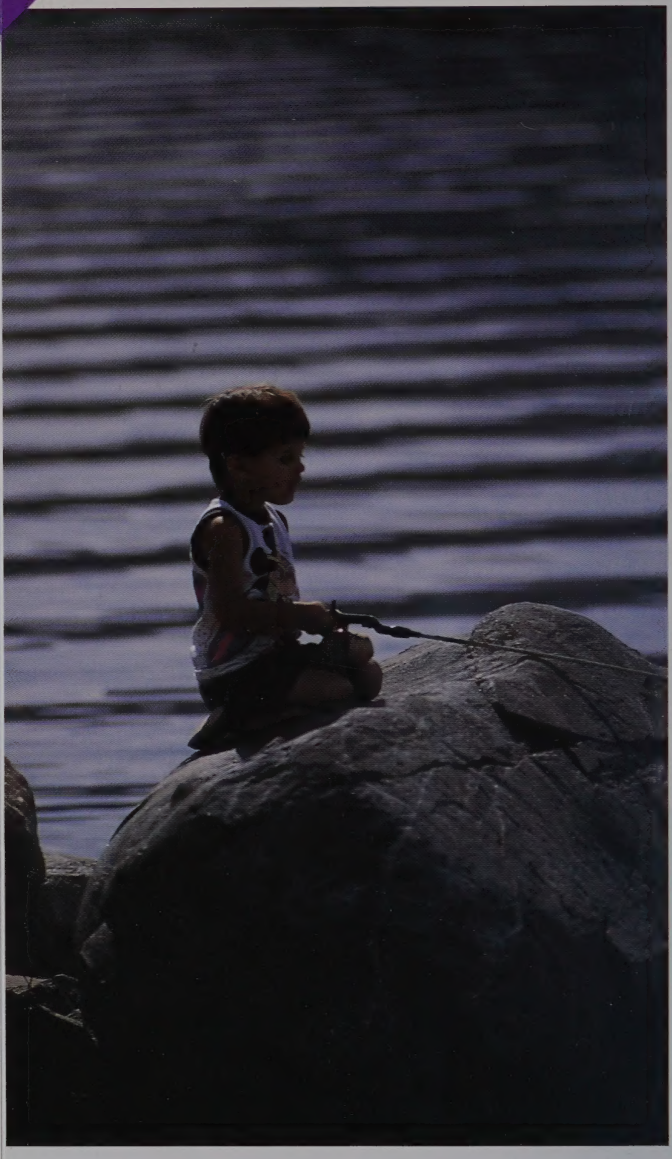
Feisty fish and fierce rapids are the calling cards for the Upper Klamath, California's second-longest river. Kayaks, canoes, rafts, and, at points, power boats tackle the Klamath, which roughly translated from Chinook means *swiftness*. Salmon and steelhead attract fall and winter anglers, while summer's made to order for trout. Dam-controlled flows create electrifying ribbons of whitewater through Satan's Gate and Hell's Corner rapids. And the river is a popular wayside for migrating birds. The list of frequent flyers includes blue and green herons, lots of eagles, cormorants, and even pelicans. It's a kinder, gentler float from the Oregon border to Copco Lake through open country littered with remains of mines, ranches, mills, and even a historic 19th century health spa.

When to go: Year-round for fishing; whitewater in spring-late summer.

Getting there: I-5 to Ore. Hwy. 66, then W. to John Boyle Power House.

Put in: John Boyle Power House, Stateline Access,





Copco Lake, Irongate Reservoir, I-5 Crossing, Confluence with the Shasta.

Take-out: Same as put-in, except for John Boyle Power House.

River Class: California, II-III; Oregon, Class V

Know Before You Go

Your safety is our number one priority. Be sure your rafting skills match the challenges of the toughest part of each river you choose. Remember the potential for danger is always there. The deeper, rushing waters of the early spring run set the stage for a fast and powerful ride, while the shallower, lazy flows of summer reveal more rocks, trees, and other hazards in the water.

By anticipating potential hazards and being prepared for them you may be able to avert dangerous and even fatal situations. A first-aid kit, extra clothing in a waterproof parcel, an extra paddle and a bailer, should be securely fastened to your boat.

Proper gear, protective footwear and a Coast Guard-approved life jacket should be standard equipment—even on an easy, gently flowing river. The greatest majority of deaths on any river are those of people without life vests. And remember, the chilly, sometimes icy water can bring on hypothermia, another potentially life-threatening condition.

Some of our rivers pass through remote, sometimes fragile, and occasionally inaccessible areas that require *no trace* camping by groups or individuals making two- or three-day treks. No trace camping is that unique art acquired by expert campers and rafters that enables you to use a piece of land and leave it exactly as you found it. Standards for overnight stays are different for wilderness areas than for more highly developed areas.

Make sure the best vacation of your life isn't your last!

Susanville District

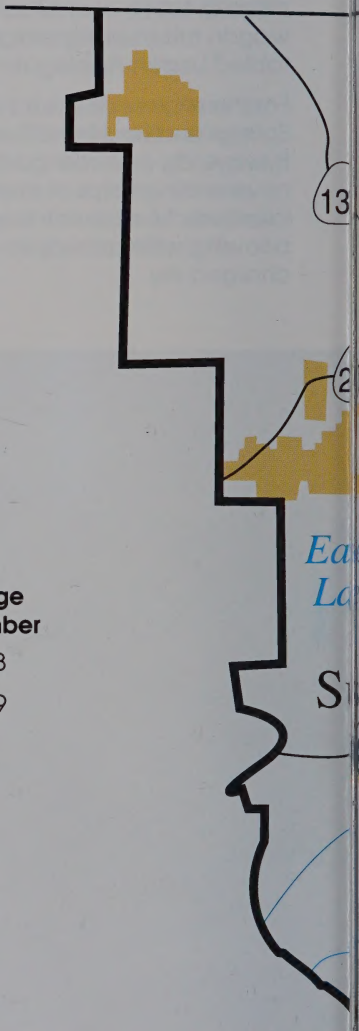
You'll find no greenlock here. Windshield visitors tend to shy away from this vast open land. Instead there's plenty of room to ramble, space to roam over thousands of sage-studded acres, a vast untamed country where herds of antelope and wild horses still race each other and the wind. Here you can pitch your tent under a canopy of stars and easedrop on that romantic icon of the Old West, the coyote, while he serenades his compadres and the moon.

Stoke up your energy for an *Adventure in the Past* along the 25-mi. Bizz Johnson Trail near Susanville and soak up some spectacular scenery while you take a look back at the region's colorful railroad history. Be sure to come again in winter when the trail's transformed into a snowy wonderland for crosscountry ski fans.

It's frankly hard to top the water sports at Eagle Lake, California's second-largest natural lake. The North Eagle Lake campground opens the door to high adventure and low-cost recreation where the catch of the day is the trophy-sized Eagle Lake trout. Or you might step over the border into Nevada for that masterpiece of erosion—High Rock Canyon. Prospect for jasper and petrified wood in the shadows of towering burnt umber pillars or touch our history in the still-preserved wagon ruts marking emigrant travels along the fabled Lassen-Applegate Trail.

For the *real* roads less traveled, tackle the Barrel Springs and Buckhorn Canyon Back Country Byways. Zig over rolling hills and sage with neverending vistas or stretch your legs along dry lakebeds. Maybe kick back and count those billowing white clouds stacking up in a cobalt-charged sky.

Susanville District



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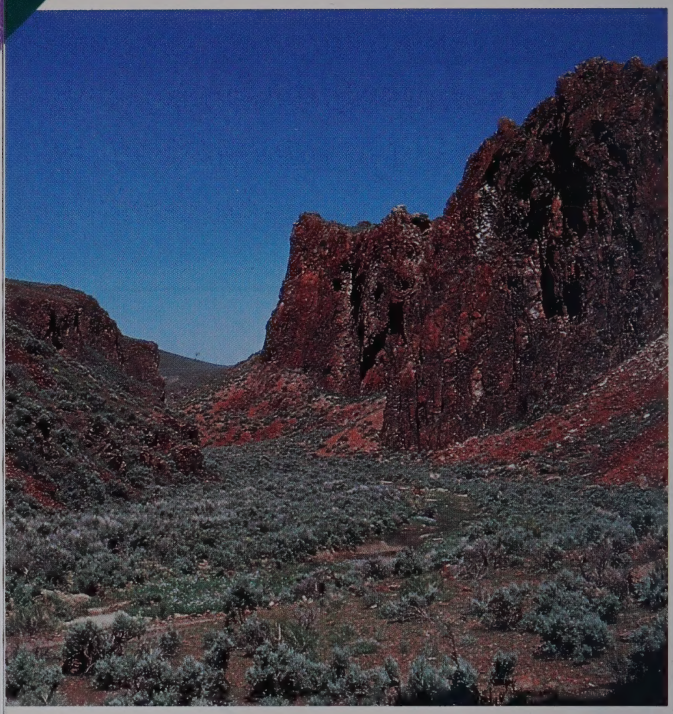


Bizz Johnson Trail 25

Eagle Lake Resource Area

Pedal into the past along one of the West's best Rails-to-Trails corridors. Fit for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, Bizz Johnson traces the old Fernley and Lassen RR from Susanville to Westwood with spectacular mountain views and relics of the railroad and logging heydays along the way. For much of the 25-mi. trip, the trail winds through the rugged Susan River Canyon, crossing the river 11 times on bridges and trestles, and passing through 2 tunnels. Winter storms transform the trail into a snowy wonderland with heaps of fun for crosscountry skiers.

When to go: Year-round.

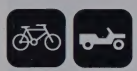
Getting there: Susanville trailhead: Follow Hwy. 36 to South Lassen St. at western end of town. Left on South Lassen for 4 blocks to trail. Westwood trailhead: Follow Hwy. 36 through Westwood. Turn right on South Lassen St., 2 blocks past town to trailhead.

Fort Sage Loop

26

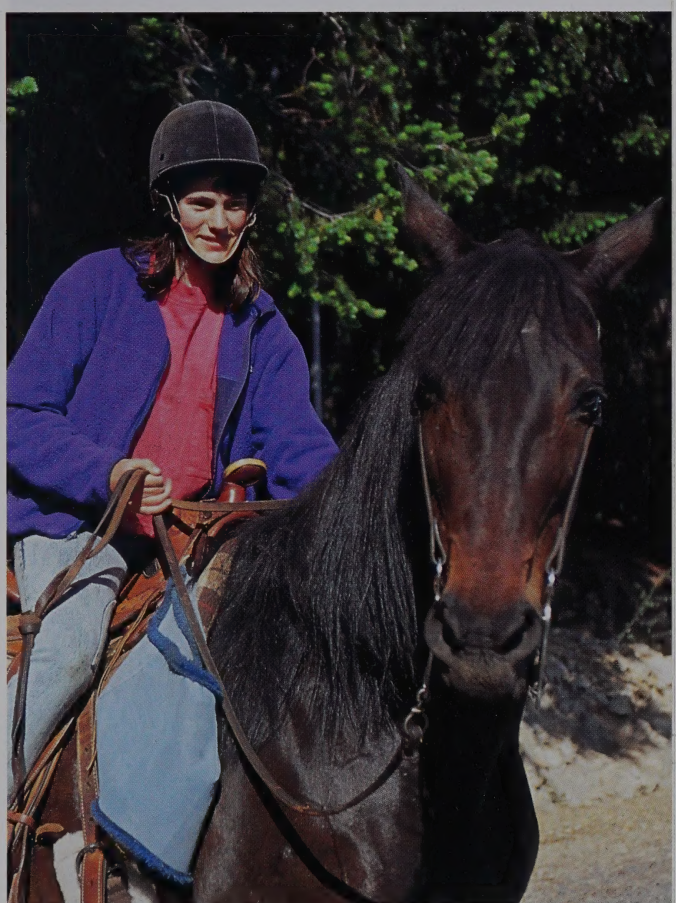
Eagle Lake Resource Area

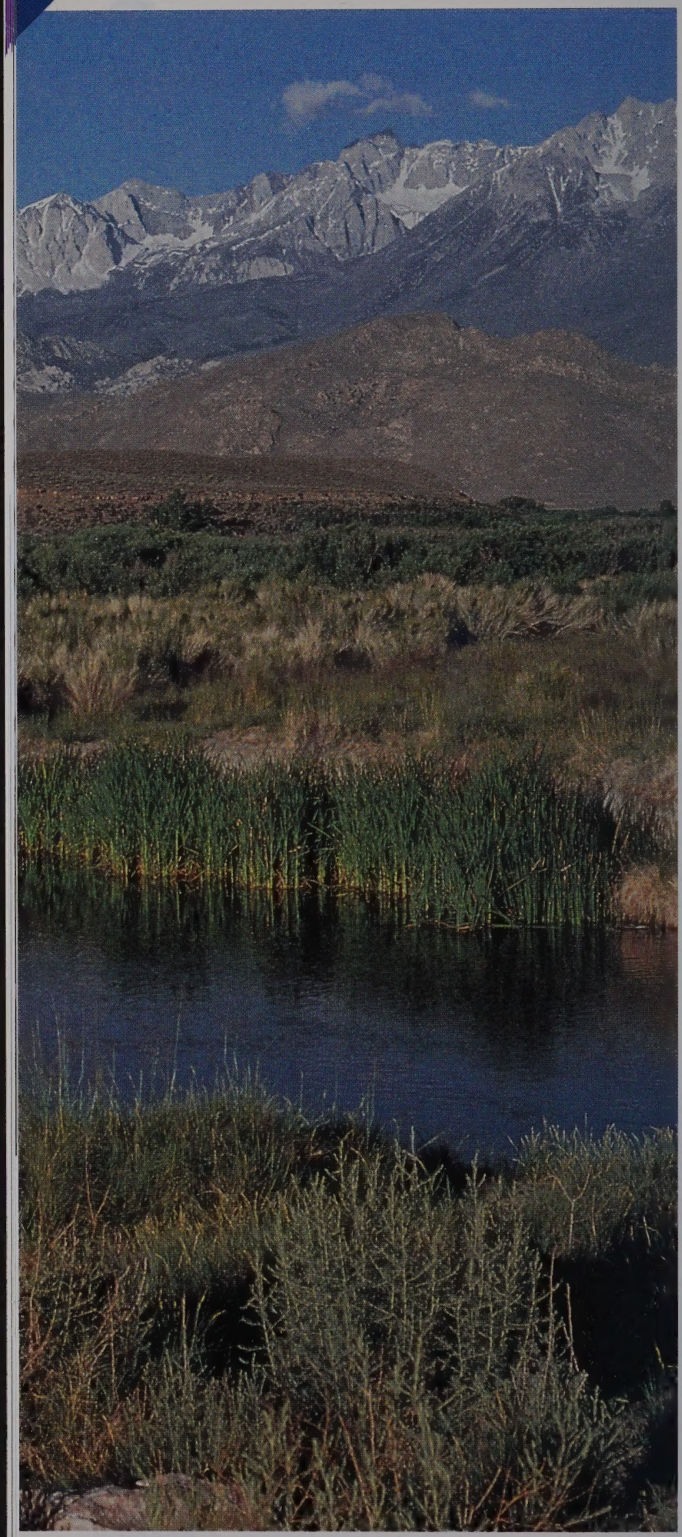
Bump over sage-covered hills and race tumbleweeds along this slice-of-the-West trek for dirt bikes, ATVs, and even mountain bikes. The 18-mi. route runs the gamut from easy to moderate. There's one tough hill, but you can skip it. Call the resource area before you go—sandy conditions can make the loop hazardous.



When to go: Spring-fall.

Getting there: From US 395, exit at Laver Crossing and follow signs to trail.



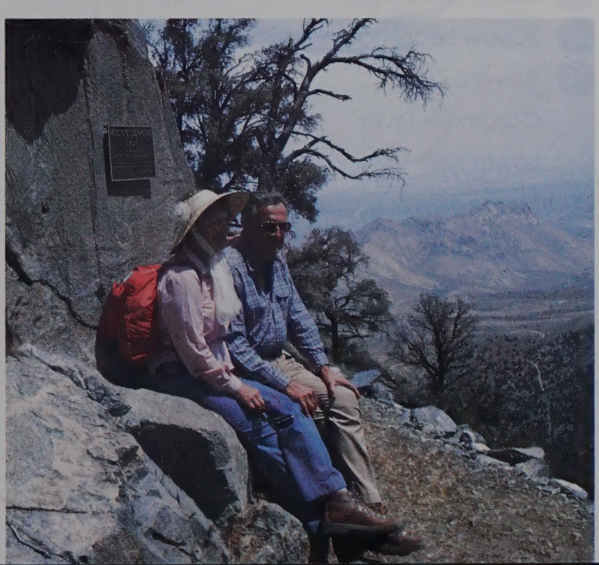


Bakersfield District

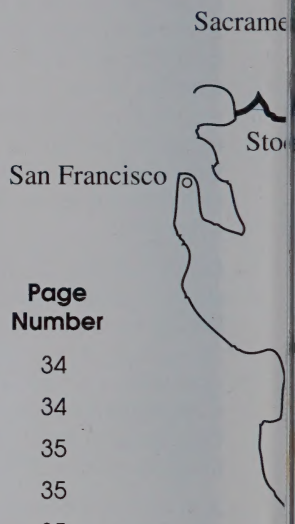
Your public lands cut a broad and beautiful swath across the center of the state from the border with Nevada to the Pacific. Along the way you can walk, ride, or camp the High Country. Perhaps visit the Alabama Hills and see the pass where countless cinema cowboys always brought down the bad guys. Explore the volcanic wonders of Crater Mountain or enjoy the room at the top of Conway Summit. And for a real walk on the wild side, you can't beat the Pacific Crest Trail. In the Sierra and Central Valley too hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians face tame or tough trails around rugged canyons or in chaparral meadows blazing with wildflowers. Ups and downs and a semi-primitive experience await every breed of OHV enthusiast.

Don't miss the Carrizo Plain in springtime. The state's largest nature preserve turns into a seasonal jetport for migrating birds as the air pulses with a thousand pairs of wings raised at once. With luck and strong binoculars you might witness the elaborate courtship ballet of the stately sandhill crane. Later step inside the oddly-shaped Painted Rock for a look at Native American art.

Just for the wet of it, log some watery mileage on electrifying whitewater runs through the heart of the Mother Lode or Yosemite National Park. The Tuolumne, Merced, Yuba, American Rivers—all steeped in history, spectacular scenery, and quick tempo, heart-stopping rapids. And make way for ducklings at Cosumnes River Preserve, where wetlands and sloughs create wonderful meanders with more than a hint of bayou country.



Bakersfield District



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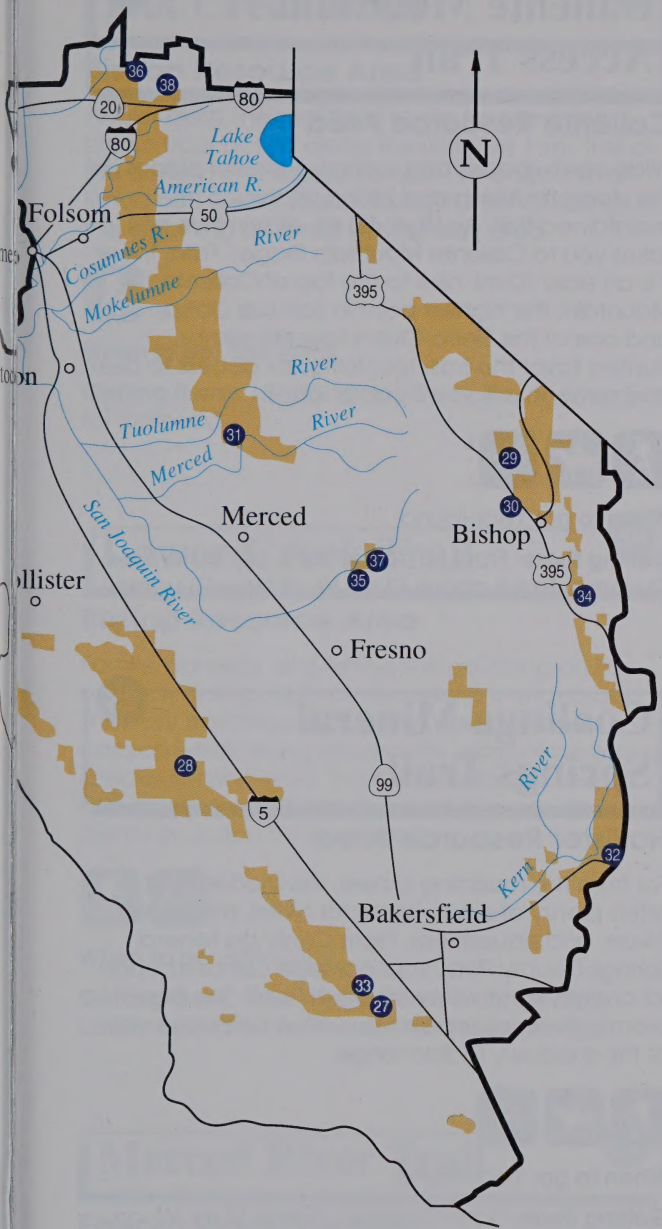
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Caliente Mountain Access Trail

27

Caliente Resource Area

Wide open spaces and spring wildflower places set the stage for hiking and biking on this 2.5 mi. maintained trail. Another 4.5 mi. of primitive trail takes you to Caliente Mountain Ridge. From there it is an easy 10-mi. hike to the top of Caliente Mountain, the highest point in San Luis Obispo Co., and one of the Sierra Club's favorite climbs. Hunters favor the trail, too, for quick access to deer and quail on adjacent public lands.

When to go: Year-round.

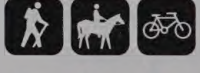
Getting there: From I-5, follow Hwy. 166 W. to New Cuyama. Trail is about 13 mi. W. of New Cuyama.

Coalinga Mineral Springs Trail

28

Hollister Resource Area

Far from the madding crowd, this modern trail offers plenty of elbow room for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. From Coalinga Mineral Springs County Park, your passage climbs chaparral countryside to Kreyenhagen Peak. The panoramic overlook repays you with a bird's eye view of the shadowy Diablo range.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Coalinga, travel 10 mi. W. on Hwy. 198 to Coalinga Mineral Springs Rd.

Hot Creek Trail 29

Bishop Resource Area

Angler alert! Thermal flows make for some fine brown trout action along this primitive 1-mi. trail at the bottom of a scenic canyon. When you're all fished out, unkink your muscles in the hot springs at the adjoining US Forest Service day area.

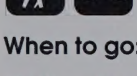
When to go: Spring-fall.

Getting there: US 395 to Hot Creek Rd., then watch for trailhead.

Lower Creek Trail 30

Bishop Resource Area

Family, camera, and fishing line go along on this one-day outing, but not necessarily in that order. This easy trail through a scenic, steep-walled canyon winds along old-growth Jeffrey pine and a special riparian area. Trout's there for the taking. Cliff dwelling wildlife and birds of prey provide plenty of action for shutterbugs.



When to go: Spring-fall.

Getting there: Take US 395 20 mi. N. of Bishop to Lower Creek Rd., and watch for trailhead sign.

Merced River Trail 31

Folsom Resource Area

This ungroomed and, for the most part, unshaded 18-mi. trek for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders follows the old Yosemite RR grade from the Briceburg Visitor Center to Railroad Flat campground. Along the way you'll pass vestiges of a water diversion project from the turn of the century or perhaps encounter a crew of contemporary argonauts combing the shoals with a gold dredge.

Be careful where you step—that tiny creature doing push-ups on a nearby rock just might be a rare limestone salamander.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Merced, follow Hwy. 140 E. to Briceburg.

Pacific Crest Trail 32

Caliente Resource Area

To really answer the call of the wild, ride and hike the high country along the Pacific Crest Trail. PCT extends 2,560 miles from Canada to Mexico, spanning three states, more than a hundred mountain peaks, and nearly a thousand lakes. About 120 miles of the trail down the rugged spine of the Sierra Nevada to the high desert are managed by this resource area. If you tackle these four BLM segments, your itinerary will touch on the wild beauty of the Domeland wilderness, ancient gardens of jumbled stone, modern windmill farms, intriguing Joshua tree forests, and a wealth of transitional flora and fauna. There are few mountain streams or other sources of drinking water, so bring lot of water along. (For more adventures along the PCT, see *Whitewater Canyon* entry under California Desert District.)

When to go: Year-round, but subject to weather closure.

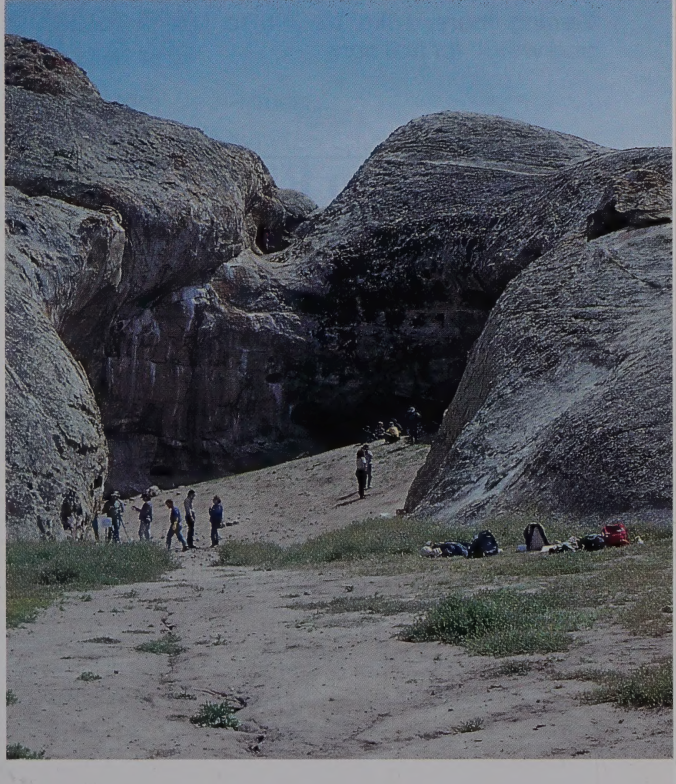
Getting there: Many trailheads, but prime staging areas are near Walker Pass and Chimney Peak campgrounds.

Painted Rock Interpretive Trail

33

Caliente Resource Area

Painted Rock is the most outstanding geologic feature of the Carrizo Plain, a broad expanse of superlatives tucked into the eastern corner of San Luis Obispo County. The interior of the 55-ft. tall, rounded structure, which vaguely resembles a Paul Bunyon-sized croissant, is a gallery of some of the most outstanding Native American pictographs in the nation. The black and red paintings of mythical animals have been retouched by contemporary scribblers, and are the subject of a major restoration by the Getty Conservation Institute. Listen for echoes of the past in the large U-shaped amphitheater in the face of the rock where Chumash and Yokut shamans once held court. Come in the spring when an impressionistic mural of wildflowers stretches across the plain. You can get your bird fix then, too, as alkali Soda Lake becomes an international jetport for thousands of migrating birds.



When to go: Spring and fall are best.

Getting there: In southeastern San Luis Obispo County , west of Bakersfield, take Hwy. 58 or Hwy. 166 to Soda Lake Rd., and follow signs to Carrizo Plain site.

Pat Keys Trail 34

Bishop Resource Area

Challenge yourself on this 7-mi. ramble into the heart of the Inyo Mountains Wilderness Study Area. Tote lots of water and wear hiking boots. The century-old mining trail will reward you with top of the world views of the Owens Valley and Sierra Nevada. Bighorn sheep love this rugged terrain, but so do rattlers.

When to go: Spring-fall.

Getting there: Take US 395 to Manzanar Rd. and watch for trail signs.

San Joaquin River National Recreation Trail 35

Hollister Resource Area

A far cry from the flatlands of the Central Valley (but not a *fer* piece), the San Joaquin River National Recreation Trail furnishes day hikers and horseback riders a full day or an easy jaunt over chaparral-cloaked ridges. Part of an 11-mi. trail from the Sierra National Forest to Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, the 2.5-mi. long BLM-portion of this trail starts at Squaw Leap Campground. Along the way you'll be treated to a breathtaking view of the San Joaquin River gorge. Co-starring are a full cast of wildflowers headed by red bud, baby blue eyes, goldfields, and tom cat clover.

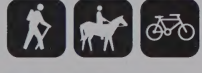
When to go: Best in spring and fall, but open year-round.

Getting there: From Fresno, travel E. on Hwy. 168 to Prather and follow signs to Auberry. Access is via Power House Rd. to Smalley Rd.

South Yuba Trail 36

Folsom Resource Area

This 12-mi. trail carries hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders through pine-choked canyons to gentler slopes and open meadows. Expect to see historic flumes and waterworks—you're in Gold Country now! Besides a romantic legacy, the 19th century argonauts left plenty of evidence of hydraulic mining. You can check it out at neighboring Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. After your history lesson, you might sample the primo swimming holes and rainbow trout pools along the Yuba's roaring South Fork.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Nevada City, follow Hwy. 49 to North Bloomfield Rd., and travel 10 mi. to South Yuba Recreation Lands. Alternate route for trailers follows Hwy. 49 to Tyler Foote Crossing Rd., then R. on Grizzly Hill Rd. to intersection with North Bloomfield.

Squaw Leap Trail 37

Hollister Resource Area

This 6-mi. loop trail by the San Joaquin River skirts chaparral country with venerable valley oaks and spring wildflower parades. Squaw Leap Trail is an easy ticket for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians seeking bucolic day outings. An unusual equestrian bridge adds to the fun and the photo opportunities. As a bonus, the trail opens onto thousands of acres of public land.

When to go: Best in spring and fall, but open year-round.

Getting there: From Fresno take Hwy. 168 to Prather. Follow signs to Auberry. Access is via Power House Rd. to Smalley Rd.

Stevens Trail 38

Folsom Resource Area

On its journey to the North Fork American River, this 4.5-mi. former livery trail meanders gently along a canyon, presenting a series of spectacular views of the famous Gold Rush era river. You'll pass a high railroad bed, the infamous China wall, built by Chinese laborers dangling in baskets from even higher cliffs. Several mine shafts beside the trail help put you in touch with the canyon's storied past and warm you up for some recreational gold panning from the miners' *flats* along the river.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Follow I-80 to Colfax, then follow frontage road past Colfax cemetery to trailhead.

Cosumnes River

Folsom Resource Area

Three segments of the last undammed river in the state offer cool spots for swimming and plenty of oak shade relief from the unrelenting Central Valley summer. Another river option is a trip back through time at the Cosumnes River Preserve. This BLM-Nature Conservancy venture keeps alive the largest remaining valley oak riparian forest in California. Ducklings have the right-of-way at this popular reststop on the Pacific Flyway. And wetlands and sloughs create a wonderful meander with more than a hint of old bayou country only minutes from California's capital.

When to go: Swimming, summer only; TNC Preserve, Year–round.

Getting there: Swimming, sites off Aukum and Bucks Bar Rds, E. of Hwy. 49, and SE of Placerville; Consumnes River Preserve, From Sacramento S. on I-5 - exit near Sacramento-San Joaquin County Lines.

River Class: I

Lower Kern River

Caliente Resource Area

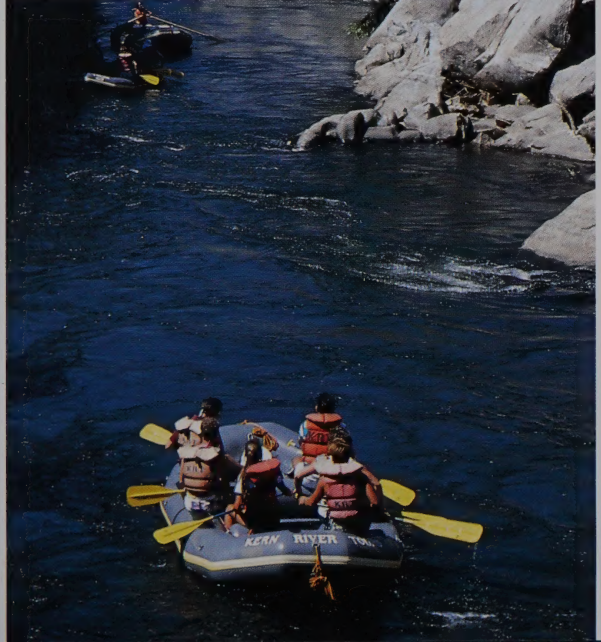
This wee bit of wilderness is a magnet for Southern California whitewater fans, but the long foaming ride through mixed conifer cliffs is not for the novice. Here Mother Nature writes the rulebook for the high stakes game you're about to play. High spring flows produce rapid-fire whitewater at Deadman's Curve, Oscar's Nightmare, and Hari Kari that only experts should attempt. Calmer area attractions include historic Kernville and Isabella Lake.

When to go: Spring and summer.

Getting there: Hwy. 178 to junction of Hwy. 155.

Put-in/Take-out: Various locations along Hwy. 178.

River Class: II-IV



Merced River

Folsom Resource Area

From the high country of Yosemite National Park, the Merced River shows no mercy on its headlong rush through glacially-carved canyons, rugged mountains and foothills to the San Joaquin Valley. Ample access points allow you to punch rapids at your own pace. Come ashore long enough to watch an eagle dive for its dinner. Get one of those trout yourself and plunk it in a pan over an open fire at Railroad Flat or McCabe Flat campgrounds. It's a tough life but somebody's got to do it.

When to go: April-August.

Getting there: Hwy. 141 to Forest Bridge. Take Forest Bridge Rd. to Incline Rd.

Put-in: Redbud, Cranberry, and Briceburg.

Take-out: Briceburg, McCabe Flat, Railroad Flat, Bagby Reservoir.

Portage: Mandatory at North Fork Falls.

River Class: III-IV

Mokelumne River

Folsom Resource Area

Kayaks, canoes, and inner tubes go with the flow on this scenic 3-mi. course past the Gold Rush towns of Jackson and Mokelumne Hill. Easy access and a series of short but peppy rapids make this a popular spot for novice whitewater fans and yakkers in training for more advance runs.

When to go: March-Sept.

Getting there: Hwy. 49 to Jackson to Electra Road.

Put-in: Electra Power House.

Take-out: Hwy. 49 bridge.

River Class: I-II

North Fork American River

Folsom Resource Area

Fasten your life jackets—It's going to be a bumpy ride. The famous Giant Gap run of the even more famous North Fork American River is one of the most popular whitewater challenges in California. Cliffs tower 2,000-ft. above clear green streams smashing a path through steep rapids choked with boulders the size of refrigerators. Heaps of mine tailings and old cabin ruins border the course of this roller coaster ride through the historic Mother Lode. Stop to catch your breath at Lover's Leap Picnic Area, which boasts the state's most venerable black oak (350-450 yrs. old).

When to go: Spring-early summer.

Getting there: Take Alta exit off I-80, 30 mi. NE of Auburn, then turn S. 3 mi. on Casa Loma Rd. to trailhead. Put-in is 2 mi. walk from trailhead. To take-out, take Canyon Way exit off I-80 at Colfax to Colfax-Iowa Hill Rd.

Put-in: Euchre Bar.

Take-out: Iowa Hill, Colfax Bridge.

River Class: IV-V

South Fork American River

Folsom Resource Area

The Gold Rush river, the South Fork today still delivers its own special currency as the most popular (and most populated) whitewater run in California. Even before James Marshall's fortuitous 1849 find in John Sutter's mill race, the Rio de los Americanos flaunted its reputation as a wild and capricious mountain stream. Today, tempered by upstream dams, the South Fork still lurches and bucks through cataracts of boulders, drops and chutes, on its headstrong plunge through Meatgrinder, Old Scary, and Satan's Cesspool, then delivers a rough goodbye at Hospital Bar. Along with these heart-stopping rapids, you'll no doubt come to shore long enough to do some discovering of your own at the Marshall Gold

Discovery State Park. The 21-mi. run can be made full bore or in segments of 1-2 days. Contact the resource area for a list of permitted outfitters.

When to go: Spring-summer.

Getting there: US 50 to Placerville, then follow Hwy. 49 to Hwy. 193 to Chil Bar Reservoir. Hwy. 49 also runs through Coloma for river access at the state historic park.

Put-in: Henningsen-Lotus Park, Chili Bar, Hwy. 49 bridge west, Marshall Gold Discovery Park, Camp Lotus.

Take-Out: Henningsen-Lotus Park, Hwy. 49 Bridge West, Marshall Gold Discovery Park, Camp Lotus.

River Class: III

South Yuba River

Folsom Resource Area

The South Yuba River is a happy combination of history, scenic beauty, and whitewater excitement. This Gold Country river flashes and dances through an intricate minefield of boulders on its downstream journey. The region once drew hordes of prospectors whose hydraulic mining activity left its mark on cliffs and hillsides. You can learn about this water-powered mining at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park only minutes from the river. Gold still sparks a fever of excitement here and weekends see the Yuba transformed into an upriver playground for swimming, fishing, and nugget panning. Another riverside attraction is BLM's South Fork Campground, complete with miles of trails, and developed campsites nestled in thick conifer forest.

When to go: Spring-early summer.

Getting there: Hwy. 49 N. of Nevada City to North Bloomfield Rd.

Put-in: Washington Bridge, Edwards Crossing.

Take-out: Edwards Crossing, Purdon Rd. Bridge.

Portages: 12-Ft. waterfall below Humbug Creek,

Diversion dam before Purdon Rd

River Class: IV-V

Tuolumne River

Folsom Resource Area

California's premier whitewater river is a slalom course of boulders of escalating intensity. Staircase rapids, chutes, and pools by the score and Yosemite National Park create the ultimate river adventure, a journey by turns exciting and pristine. World famous, this is where ambitious runners earn their stripes.

When to go: April-September.

Getting there: Hwy. 49 S. from Sonora to Hwy. 120, E. past Groveland about 7.5 mi. to Ferreti Rd. to Lumsden Rd. to Lumsden campground.

Put-in: Lumsden Rd.

Take-out: Wards Ferry Bridge.

River Class: IV-V

International Scale of River Difficulty

Class I: Easy (small waves; no serious obstacles)

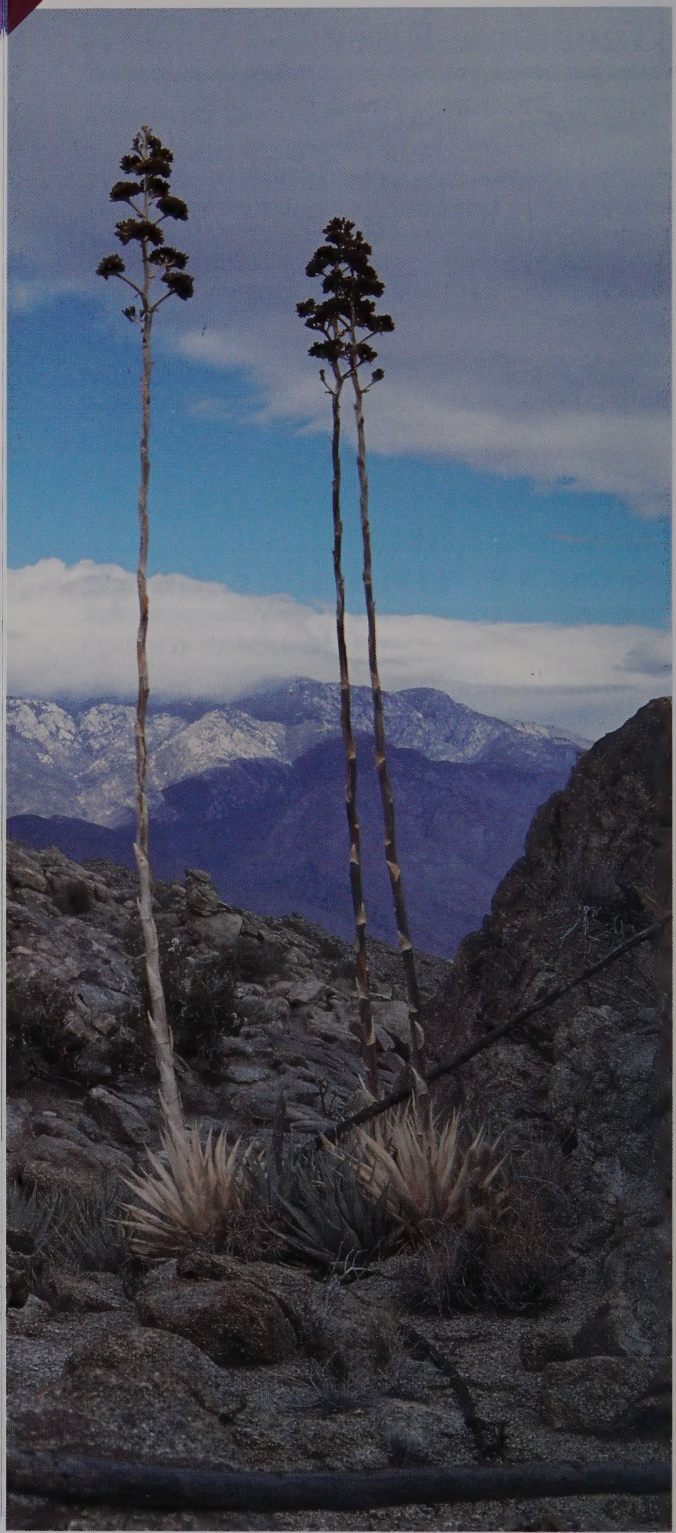
Class II: Medium (rapids of moderate difficulty; requires experience)

Class III: Difficult (high, irregular waves, rocks, narrow passages; requires good operator and boat)

Class IV: Very Difficult (powerful waves, dangerous rocks; requires expert operator and excellent boat)

Class V: Extremely Difficult (big drops; long, violent, almost continuous rapids)

Class VI: Unrunnable



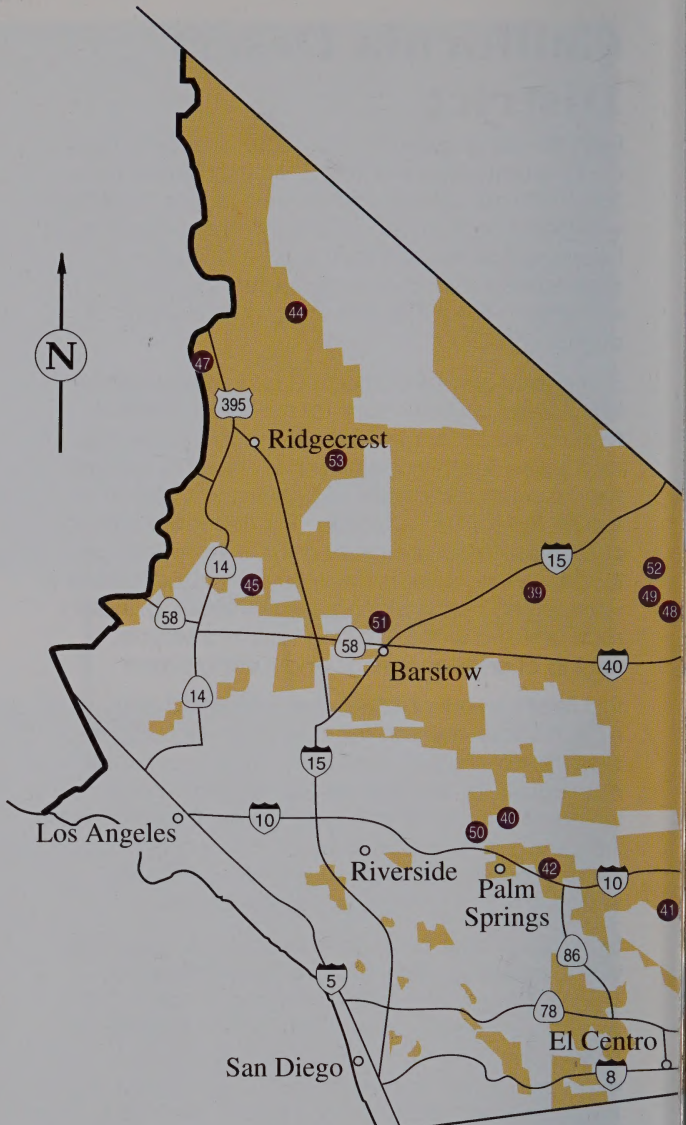
California Desert District

Plan on being awed by the sense of space, history, and natural beauty of the California Desert. Sawtooth mountains, salt-crusted playas, weird but wonderful Joshua tree forests, gothic spires of rock, haunting flat-topped mesas, crumbling Army outposts, Spanish-style train depots, gigantic etchings in the sand, soft-sculptured dunes that sing or sigh. . . .

Some rock groups come and go but most of ours have been on the charts for millennia. See the fossils of exotic ancients like the huge bear-dog and sabre-tooth cat at Rainbow Basin or explore the nooks and crannies of the Grand Canyon of the Mojave, Afton Canyon. Experience our trio of preserves. Three preserves outside Palm Springs—Big Morongo, Coachella Valley, and Dos Palmas—supply world-class birding, wildlife viewing, Indian rock art, and webs of hiking trails in a serene setting of artesian springs and rustling palms.

If diversity's your outdoor spin, you'll find your match somewhere in the desert. Bowls, ledges, and berms of sand plus classic badlands supply challenges for every breed of offroad warrior. For limitless fun the place to go is Imperial Sand Dunes, America's OHV mecca. Land sailing and hang gliding fans find abundant dry lake beds and willing winds at El Mirage and vista points.

Slow down long enough to prospect for petrified wood or gemstones, explore the otherworldly Trona Pinnacles, perhaps bring the whole family—even your horse — to McCain Valley, Mid-Hills, or Hole in the Wall. Or ride the paths of history in your 4WD along the Mojave Road and East Mojave Heritage Trail. To sample the poetic marvels of the East Mojave try one or all of the eight Back Country Byways that supply scenic slices of this corner of the Old West.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California Desert District

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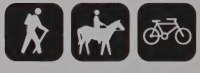
Afton Canyon 39

Barstow Resource Area

Water still flows most of the year through this *mini* Grand Canyon. Here sheer walls in every imaginable shade of pink tower 300 ft. above the Mojave River. Four major trails of varying lengths take you past these varicolored cliffs and through nooks and crannies visited long ago by Native American people, Spanish missionaries and explorers, and mountain men. This rare ribbon of greenery in a unique geological setting also harbors an abundance of wildlife and birds.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Barstow travel 33 mi. E. on I-15 to Afton turnoff. Follow dirt road SW for 3 mi. to Afton Campground. Trailheads are at the campground.

Big Morongo Trail 40

Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

Big Morongo is big on birds and lots of other flora and fauna too. World-famous for its birding opportunities, the lush desert oasis offering food, shelter, and water attracts more than 300 bird species, among then the rare vermilion flycatcher. Bighorn sheep also flock to these desert springs once frequented by nomadic Indians. The desert springs ecosystem and Mojave representative forest stand out as some of the best in the state. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk carries you over the springs and there are several short loop trails of .3 to 1-mi. long.

When to go: Year-round.

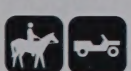
Getting there: Take I-10 to Hwy. 62, then travel N. 9.2 mi. to Covington Park. Turn E. at sign and follow road N. short distance to parking lot.

Bradshaw Trail

41

Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

A little insider trading with the Cahuilla Indians led 19th century entrepreneur Bill Bradshaw to blaze this trail along secret water sources. Bradshaw hoped to cash in on the expected commerce as would-be miners abandoned the pueblo of Los Angeles and streaked across the desert to the Colorado River goldfields, but he met with foul play before he could realize his dream. Today this 65-mi. long trail through the California Desert is much more than a historical footnote—it is an important 4WD access for residents and visitors at work and at play.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Take I-10 E. about 45 mi. from Indio to Red Cloud Mine exit. About 8 mi. S. on Red Cloud Rd. brings you to the trail.

Coachella Valley Preserve Trails

42

Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

A 1,000 words couldn't do justice to this stunning 1,000 palm oasis, once used as a backdrop for DeMille's classic *King of Kings*. The preserve was established to protect the endangered Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, but the secretive little reptile who hides in the sand isn't the only rarity found at the preserve. Crystal clear springs sheltered by greenery lure all manner of desert wildlife to the 13,000-ac. site. The self-guiding nature trail is a must for first-time visitors. More ambitious trails carry you past blowsand dunes, through washes, and to overlooks where you can see all the way to the Salton Sea. Stay alert on the Sand Dunes Trail and you might spy the tiny sand swimmer doing its laps.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Take I-10 to Washington St. exit, then follow Washington St. N. to Thousand Palms. Right on Thousand Palms to parking area.

Corn Springs Interpretive Trail

43

Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

Tennis shoes easily carry you over this .5-mi., well-groomed, self-guiding nature loop. Along the way you'll stop at 11 stations highlighting the canyon's ecology, wildlife and Indian art thousands of years old. You'll learn about the varied uses local Indians

made of these plants. The deep canyon setting in the heart of the fabled Chuckwalla Mountains produces a bounty of botanical pleasures from groves of native fan palms to clumps of cattails. Water draws an impressive slate of wildlife including screech owls, western pipistrelle bats, Gambel's quail, and cactus wrens.

When to go: Late fall-early summer.

Getting there: From Barstow travel I-10 8 mi. NE to Chuckwalla Rd., then S. on Chuckwalla Rd. to Corn Springs Rd. Follow Corn Springs Rd. 8 mi. W. to trailhead.

Darwin Falls 44

Ridgecrest Resource Area

In this canyon oasis, silver threads of water splash against eons old rock in sparkling counterpoint to the sunbaked sands of the northern Mojave Desert. Spring finds the falls at their pinnacle when the lush canyon teems with desert wildlife and migrating birds. In fact, more than 79 species of resident and migrating birds have been sighted there. Take your hiking boots—the trail can be muddy.

When to go: Year-round, but spring is tops!

Getting there: US 395 to Olancha, then E. on Hwy. 190 for 44 mi. Continue S. on Darwin Canyon Rd. for 2.6-mi. to dirt road and follow signs to parking area.

Desert Tortoise Natural Area Trails 45

Ridgecrest Resource Area

Meet *gopherus agassizi* ! But don't be surprised if California's official (and threatened) State Reptile is a tad reticent about meeting you. This shy, gentle creature shuns the spotlight, preferring

a quiet desert life of snoozing, sunbathing, and snacking on its favorite annual wildflowers and grasses. This special tortoise sanctuary provides four marked trails in .5- to 1.5-mi. segments. The main trail is wheelchair accessible. To catch a glimpse of the tortoise, try an early-March to late May visit, but keep your distance—tortoises traumatize easily. To better enjoy your visit, bring lots of water, a widebrimmed hat, camera, and binoculars. You'll find a trail guide at the parking area.

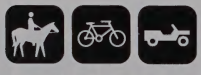
When to go: Early-March to end of May to see a tortoise.

Getting there: From Mojave in SE Kern Co., take Hwy. 14 NE 4 mi. to California City Blvd., then E. 9 mi. to 20 Mule Team Pkwy. Follow the pkwy. 1 mi. to Randsburg-Mojave Rd., which reaches the parking kiosk in about 3 mi.

East Mojave Heritage Trail 46

Needles Resource Area

The covered wagons and stage coaches are gone, but the flavor of the Old West still lingers in much of the California Desert. This 660-mi. interpretive trail for 4WD vehicles travels along abandoned railroad grades and berms, wagon trails, utility line roads, and even a stretch of old US 66. The fruit of volunteer labor, the trail is divided into four segments. Thanks to a set of bright and breezy guidebooks by the Friends of the Mojave Road, you can leisurely sample some of the East Mojave's finest scenery.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Mile 0.0 on Front St. in Needles near El Garces, the old Santa Fe railroad station. Proceed W. to G St., and follow your guidebook.

Fossil Falls Trail

47

Ridgecrest Resource Area

Your .5-mi. hike over black lava flows sculpted and polished in the Ice Age leads to a 40-ft. dry waterfall and then another. The lavish volcanic activity that produced this exceptional setting also left materials for Native American toolmaking. Nearby you'll see rock rings—remnants of circular huts built by the Paiute Indians. The abundance of obsidian flakes in the area attest to the use of volcanic glass in making knives and other projectiles. Petroglyphs found here relate to hunting rituals.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: About 45-mi. N. of Ridgecrest. From US 395 travel E. 5 mi. on Cinder Cone Rd., then S. on the unpaved Poleline Rd. to parking area.

Mid Hills to Hole in the Wall Trail

48

Needles Resource Area

Bring a wide-angle lens: You're in the Old West now. This high desert area with its dramatic volcanic formations punctuated by twisty stands of juniper is real cowboy country complete with pole corrals, windmills, and loading chutes. Pungent sage perfumes this 8-mi. point-to-point over rolling hills for hikers and horseback riders. Those eyes tracking your journey probably belong to a desert bighorn sheep, standing sentry on a faraway ledge. One day is never enough to soak up all this scenery, so to assist your stay BLM has placed campgrounds at each end of the route.

When to go: Year-round.

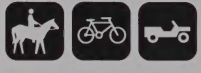
Getting there: Follow I-40, either 101 mi. E. from Barstow or 44 mi. W. from Needles, to Essex Rd. Turn N. on Essex Rd. to Black Canyon Rd., which leads to Hole in the Wall campground. For Mid-Hills, continue along Black Canyon Rd. to Mid-Hills exit, then left to the campground.

Mojave Road

49

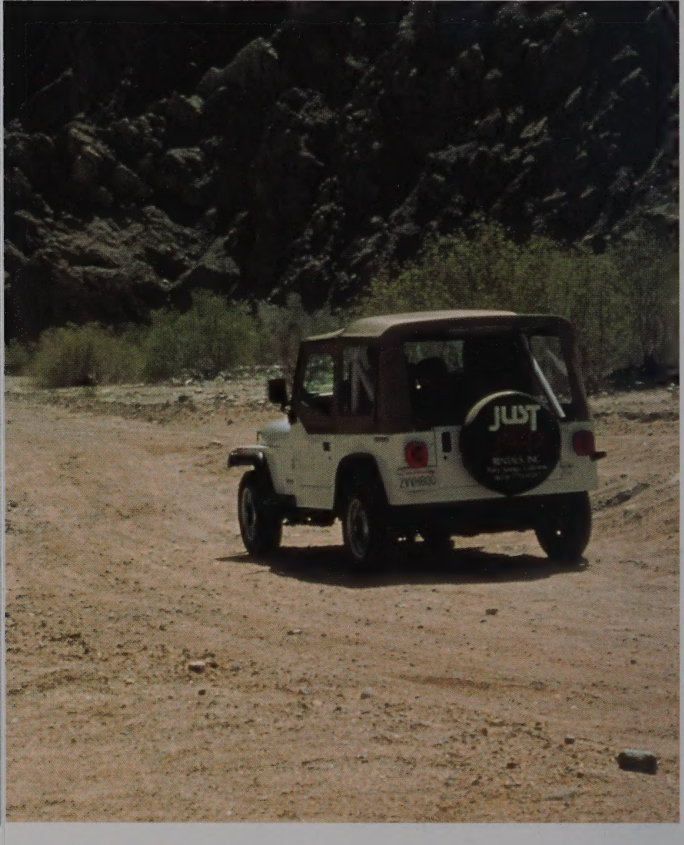
Needles and Barstow Resource Areas

Nomadic Native Americans first established this trail, which was later shaped by Army engineers aided by camels. The Old Mojave Road or Government Road became one of the most important in the West. Today, it is a favorite haunt for 4WD tours. Volunteers scouted and marked the trail for public use. A series of guidebooks carry you back to a less complicated age. Highlights along this 135-mi. route include the ruins of Fort Piute, Cinder Cones, Soda Dry Lake, and awesome Afton Canyon.



When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Mile 0.0. Start on River Rd. on bridge over I-40 in Needles.



Pacific Crest Trail, Whitewater Canyon

50

Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

You'll be on the edge along this 33-mi. segment of the Pacific Crest Trail, completed with the help of Sierra Club volunteers. Here the high Mojave and low Sonoran deserts meet with spectacular results for nature lovers. The blend of desert, mountain, and coastal climes produces an unusually diverse roster of wildlife, among them unique lizards and snakes. The year-round river slicing steep canyon walls results from snowmelt and runoff from San Gorgonio, Southern California's highest peak. Songbirds migrate to this desert water source and regal raptors construct eyries high in cavities of rock. Bighorn sheep, mule deer, and an occasional black bear are fair game for wildlife watchers. And furthermore, there's always the fast-running, shallow whitewater river for streamside picnics and plenty of wet and wonderful fun.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From I-10 about 40 mi. E. of San Bernardino, follow Whitewater Canyon Rd. N. about 4 mi. to parking area right before river.

Rainbow Basin

51

Natural Area Trails Barstow Resource Area

Bring miles of color film to this spectacular scenic home where the dinosaurs roamed. Formed at least 20 million years ago on beds of ancient lakes, this colorful sedimentary basin reveals fossils of the sabre-tooth cat, three-toed horse, and huge bear-dog, among other ancients. Time travelers pass through millions of years of geologic history on a stroll along Owl Canyon wash. Geology buffs will think they've died and gone to heaven when they discover the trove of formations waiting to be found.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Hwy. 58 in Barstow, travel 5.5-mi. N. on Ft. Irwin Rd. to Fossil Bed Rd., then NW about 3 mi.

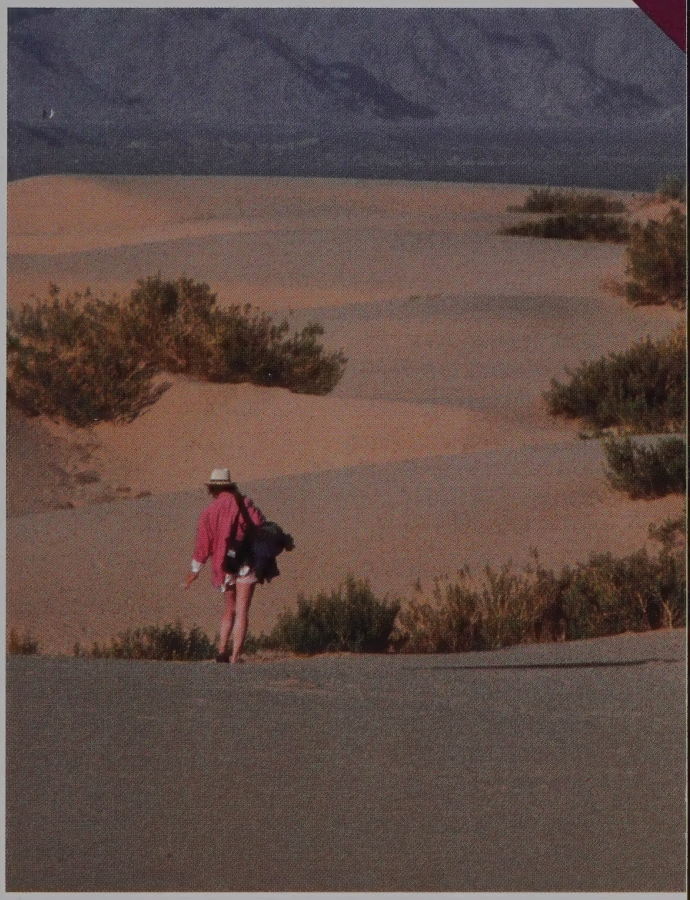
Teutonia Peak 52

Needles Resource Area

This 2-mi. trek over primitive trail leads to the *summit* of Cima Dome. The 70-sq. mi., gently-rounded granite dome is the most symmetrical of its type in the nation. A weird and wonderful Joshua tree forest carpets the area and furnishes bed and board to a thriving community of desert denizens. The extinct volcanic cones in the distance are part of the Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark, noted for petroglyph-covered basalts and other geologic features.

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: Follow I-15 N. from Barstow 89 mi. to Cima Rd., then 7 mi. on Cima Rd. to signs for trail.



Trona Pinnacles 53

Ridgecrest Resource Area

Sci-Fi buffs will immediately recognize the pinnacles as Star Trek's *Final Frontier* and everyone else will marvel at this maze of monoliths jutting up to 140-ft. out of a dry lakebed. These fantasy formations of calcium carbonate—or tufa-were formed underwater along cracks in the lakebed, first as hollow tubes, then mounds, and finally the spires we see today. A .5-mi. trail shuttles hikers around this surreal landscape, but wear sturdy shoes—Tufa cuts like coral!

When to go: Year-round.

Getting there: From Ridgecrest, follow Hwy. 178 20 mi. E. on BLM Route #143.

Here's how to contact us—Call or write to BLM at the following:

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4754

Bakersfield District Office
800 Truxtun Ave., Rm. 302
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(805) 861-4191

Bishop Resource Area
873 North Main St., Ste. 201
Bishop, CA 93514
(619) 872-4881

Caliente Resource Area
4301 Rosedale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(805) 861-4236

Folsom Resource Area
63 Natoma St.
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 985-4474

Hollister Resource Area
P.O. Box 365
Hollister, CA 95024
(408) 637-8183

California Desert District
6221 Box Spring Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507
(714) 697-5217

Barstow Resource Area
150 Coolwater Lane
Barstow, CA 92311
(619) 256-3591

El Centro Resource Area
333 S. Waterman Ave.
El Centro CA 92243
(619) 352-5842

Needles Resource Area
101 W. Spikes Rd.
Needles, CA 92363
(619) 326-3896

Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area
63-500 Garnet Avenue
PO Box 2000
North Palm Springs, CA 92262
(619) 251-0812

Ridgecrest Resource Area
112 East Dolphin Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555-9523
(619) 375-7125

Susanville District Office
705 Hall Street
Susanville, CA 96130
(916) 257-5381

Alturas Resource Area
P.O. Box 771
120 S. Main St.
Alturas, CA 96101
(916) 233-4666

Eagle Lake Resource Area
P.O. Box 1090
2545 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(916) 257-5381

Surprise Resource Area
P.O. Box 460
602 Cressler St.
Cedarville, CA 96104
(916) 279-6101

Ukiah District Office
555 Leslie St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 462-3873

Arcata Resource Area
P.O. Box 1112
1125 16th St.
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-7648

Clear Lake Resource Area
555 Leslie St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 462-3873

Redding Resource Area
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96002
(916) 246-5325

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